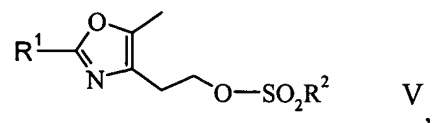


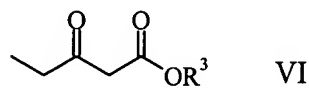
What is claimed is:

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula V

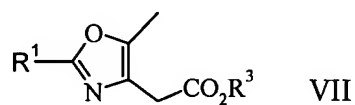


wherein R¹ is aryl or heteroaryl, and
R² is lower alkyl, aryl or trifluoromethyl;

comprising brominating a compound of formula VI,



wherein R³ is lower alkyl,
condensing the resulting brominated compound with R¹C(O)NH₂, wherein R¹ is as
above, to form a compound of formula VII,

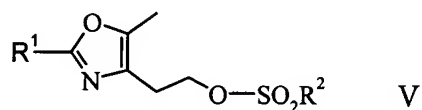


wherein R¹ and R³ are as above,

reducing the compound of formula VII to convert the ester group to a corresponding
alcohol, and

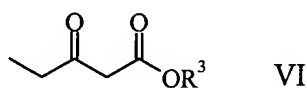
introducing a -SO₂R² group, wherein R² is as above, onto the reduced compound of
formula VII to yield the compound of formula V.

2. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula V,



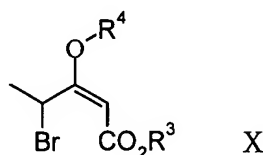
wherein R¹ is aryl or heteroaryl, and
R² is lower alkyl, aryl or trifluoromethyl;

comprising brominating a compound of formula VI



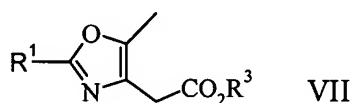
wherein R³ is lower alkyl,

converting the brominated compound to a compound of formula X,



wherein R³ is as above and
R⁴ is lower alkyl, lower-alkyl-carbonyl, lower-alkoxy-carbonyl, aryl-carbonyl,
P(O)(OR⁵)₂, or Si(R⁶)₃, wherein
each R⁵ independently represents lower alkyl or aryl, and
each R⁶ independently represents lower alkyl or aryl;

subsequently condensing the compound of formula X with an amide R¹C(O)NH₂,
wherein R¹ is as above, to obtain a compound of formula VII,



wherein R¹ and R³ are as above,

reducing the compound of formula VII to convert the ester group to a corresponding alcohol and

subsequently introducing a –SO₂R² group, wherein R² is as above, to yield said compound of formula V.

3. A process according to claim 2, wherein R³ is methyl or ethyl.
4. A process according to claim 2, wherein R² is methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl or 4-methylphenyl.
5. A process according to claim 4, wherein R² is methyl.
6. A process according to claim 2, wherein R¹ is phenyl.
7. A process according to claim 2, wherein R¹ is thiophen-2-yl.
8. A process for the preparation of 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione or Sodium 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedionate comprising the steps:
 - a) reacting methyl- or ethyl 3-oxovalerate with bromine to yield methyl- or ethyl 4-bromo-3-oxovalerate,
 - b) reacting the methyl- or ethyl 4-bromo-3-oxovalerate with benzamide to yield methyl- or ethyl 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetate,
 - c) converting the methyl- or ethyl 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetate to 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol,

- d) reacting the 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol with methanesulfonylchloride to yield 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol methansulfonyl ester,
- e) reacting the 2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol methanesulfonyl ester with 4-hydroxybenzothiophene to yield 4-[2-(benzo[b]thiophene-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole,
- f) reacting the 4-[2-(benzo[b]thiophene-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole with formaldehyde and HBr to yield 4-[2-(7-Bromomethyl-benzo[b]thiophen-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole, and
- g) reacting the 4-[2-(7-Bromomethyl-benzo[b]thiophen-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole with 2,4-thiazolidine to yield 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione.
9. The process of claim 8, further comprising
- h) converting the 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione to Sodium 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedionate.
10. A process for the preparation of 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione or Sodium 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedionate comprising the steps:
- a) reacting methyl 3-oxovalerate with methyl orthoformate to yield methyl (E)-3-methoxy-2-pentenoate,
- b) brominating the methyl (E)-3-methoxy-2-pentenoate to form methyl (E)-4-bromo-3-methoxy-pent-2-enoate,

c) reacting the methyl (E)-4-bromo-3-methoxy-pent-2-enoate with benzamide to yield methyl 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetate,

d) reducing the methyl 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)acetate to 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol,

e) reacting the 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol with methanesulfonylchloride to yield 2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol methansulfonyl ester,

f) reacting the 2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl)ethanol methanesulfonyl ester with 4-hydroxybenzothiophene to yield 4-[2-(benzo[b]thiophene-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole,

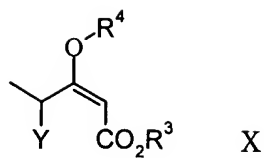
g) reacting the 4-[2-(benzo[b]thiophene-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole with formaldehyde and HBr to yield 4-[2-(7-Bromomethyl-benzo[b]thiophen-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole, and

h) reacting the 4-[2-(7-Bromomethyl-benzo[b]thiophen-4-yloxy)-ethyl]-5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazole with 2,4-thiazolidine to yield 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione.

11. The process of claim 10, further comprising

- i) converting the 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedione to Sodium 5-{4-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-benzo[b]thiophen-7-ylmethyl}2,4-thiazolidinedionate.

12. A compound of formula X



wherein

Y is Cl or Br,

R^3 is lower alkyl, and

R^4 is lower alkyl, lower-alkyl-carbonyl, lower alkoxy-carbonyl, aryl-carbonyl,

$\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OR}^5)_2$ or $\text{Si}(\text{R}^6)_3$,

with the proviso that R^4 may not be methyl if Y is Br or if R^3 is methyl.
